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Research Impact on a Friday Morning

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Research Impact on a Friday Morning

January 31 2020

Edward Ginsberg Center

Rebecca Welzenbach, Research Impact Librarian

Link to these slides: <http://bit.ly/3aWTjsc>

What's a research impact librarian?

I empower scholars to create the conditions under which they can establish:

- A strong public identity
- An account of their contributions to the scholarly enterprise
- A persuasive body of evidence for the impact of their work



Find me in my office in Hatcher 260A, or email me at rwelzenb@umich.edu

For today:

- What does research impact mean for you & for your work?
- Charting a path for yourself
- What resources and support are available to learn more?

**What does “research
impact” mean to you?**

**What terms, words,
associations, or emotions
does “research impact”
bring up?**

No single definition!

“The measurement of research impact is a contested research and political agenda that poses a complex academic question.”

(Alla et al. “[How do we define the policy impact of public health research? A systematic review](#)”

Health Science Policy and Systems, 2017)

No single definition!

- Only 23% of articles explicitly defined 'research impact'
- 76% of those definitions came from external agencies (e.g., funding bodies)

No single definition!



Four types of research impact definitions:

- as “the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to **society and the economy**” (the Research Councils United Kingdom)
- as “an effect on, change or benefit to the **economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia**” (the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Research Excellence Framework)
- as measurable influences in the form of **quantifiable data such as citation frequency** (bibliometric definitions)
- as the influences of research results on the **knowledge and actions of researchers and policymakers** (use-based definitions).

Four domains that underpinned the research impact concepts reviewed:

- *contribution* (the areas of research influence; e.g. economy, policies)
- *avenues of impact* (processes by which research could have impact; e.g. effects on knowledge, attitudes)
- *change* (synonyms used to describe “effects” or “benefits”)
- *levels of impact* (e.g. national, international).

Source:

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2018/01/09/the-concept-of-research-impact-pervades-contemporary-academic-discourse-but-what-does-it-actually-mean/>

***When* do you think about
“research impact”?**

**Not something that
happens to you, but
a story you create.**

SCOPE

A process for evaluating responsibly.

([Himanen and Gadd,](#)
[December 2019](#))

SCOPE: Start with what you value

- Before you can decide how to measure, you must decide what you care to know
- Why is your work important? What difference does it make, and how would you know you'd succeeded?
- What steps can you take to ensure you capture the relevant evidence?
- Do not start from whatever data is most readily available
- Do not start from what others value and want to measure--or, if you have no choice, at least don't stop there!

SCOPE: Start with what you value

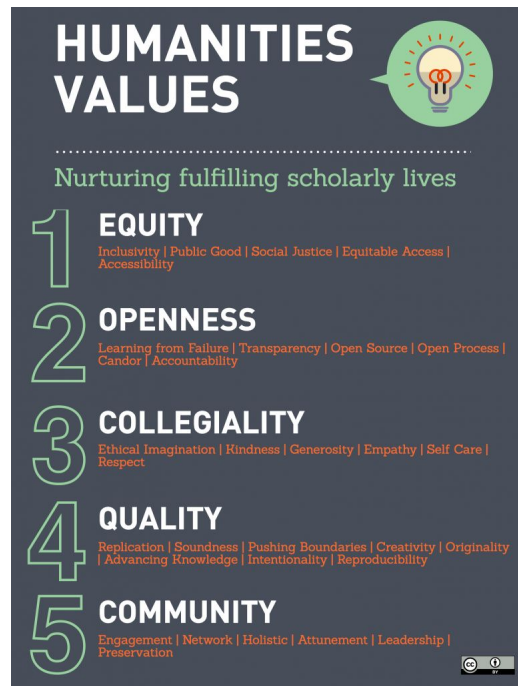
Example: the [Becker Model for Assessing the Impact of Research](#):

- Advancement of Knowledge
- Clinical Implementation
- Community Benefit
- Legislation & Policy
- Economic Benefit

SCOPE: Start with what you value

Example: [HuMetricsHSS](#):

- Equity
- Openness
- Collegiality
- Quality
- Community



SCOPE: Context considerations

- What entity are you measuring? (researcher, article, institution, department, country?)
- What is the purpose of the measurement? (to persuade, inform, compare, show off, etc.)
- What is the metric serving as a proxy for?

SCOPE: Context Considerations



SCOPE: Context considerations

- Who is evaluating you?
- What types of work are valued? (i.e., what do they want you to do?)
- What outputs are appropriate evidence of success in accomplishing this type of work? (i.e., can you show that you did the work?)
- What are the *criteria* by which these outputs are evaluated? (i.e., how will they decide whether your work was good?)
- What *measures* or *indicators* are appropriate to demonstrate how well the outputs meet or exceed the criteria? (i.e., can you show that you did this work at or above the level expected?)

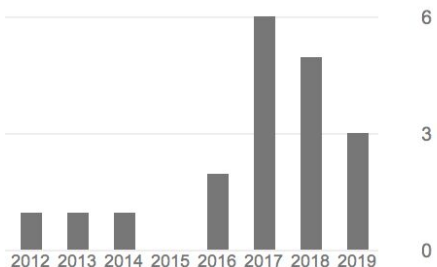
SCOPE: Options for measuring

- Quantitative vs. Qualitative?
- Traditional vs. “Alternative” metrics
- How many indicators?
- Resources:
 - [The Metrics Toolkit](#)
 - [Snowball Metrics](#)
 - [Elsevier LibraryConnect Quick Reference Cards for Research Impact Metrics](#)
 - [How to use Altmetrics to showcase engagement for Tenure & Promotion](#)

SCOPE: Options for measuring

Cited by

	All	Since 2015
Citations	20	16
h-index	3	3
i10-index	0	0



Altmetric Details Page



About this Attention Score

In the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric

MORE...

Mentioned by

- 6 policy sources
- 7 tweeters
- 1 Wikipedia page

Citations

- 2895 Dimensions

Readers on

- 1762 Mendeley
- 5 CiteULike

Tools

SUMMARY

Policy documents

Twitter

Wikipedia

Dimensions citations

So far, Altmetric has seen 32 policy documents that reference this research output.



Using Photovoice to examine physical activity in the urban context and generate policy recommendations: the Heart Healthy Hoods study

Cited by Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) on 01 Mar 2019

Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) is a research database and alert service providing free access to full-text research reports and papers, statistics and other resources essential for public policy development and implementation in Australia and New Zealand.



Participatory Action Research for Advancing Youth-Led Peacebuilding in Kenya

Cited by The United States Institute of Peace on 11 Oct 2018

The United States Institute of Peace is an independent national institute, founded by Congress and dedicated to the proposition that a world without violent conflict is possible, practical, and essential for U.S. and global security.



Best practices for community-engaged participatory research with Pacific Islander communities in the USA and USAP: protocol for a scoping review

Cited by Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) on 08 Dec 2017

Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) is a research database and alert service providing free access to full-text research reports and papers, statistics and other resources essential for public policy development and implementation in Australia and New Zealand.



ICV guidelines for Muslim community-university research partnerships

Cited by Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) on 20 Sep 2017

Analysis & Policy Observatory (APO) is a research database and alert service providing free access to full-text research reports and papers, statistics and other resources essential for public policy development and implementation in Australia and New Zealand.



Community engagement: improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities: Evidence review 1 Ginny Brunton

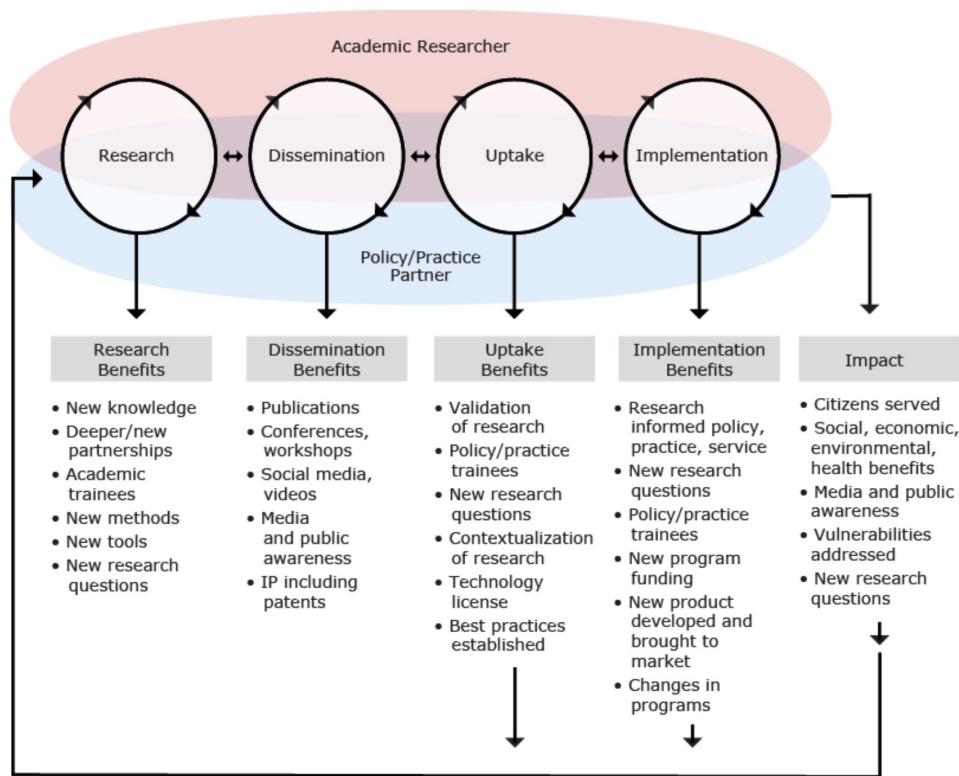
Cited by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence on 15 Jan 2016



Community engagement: improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities: Evidence review 3 Gillian Stokes

Cited by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence on 15 Jan 2016

SCOPE: Options for measuring



Phipps, D., Pepler, D., Craig, W., Cumming J., & Cardinal, S. (2016). The co-produced pathway to impact describes knowledge mobilization processes. *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship*.

SCOPE: Probe deeply

- Who does this discriminate against?
- How might this be gamed?
- What might the unintended consequences be?
- Does the cost of measuring outweigh the benefit?
- Does measuring research make the research any better?

SCOPE: Evaluate your evaluation

- Consistent with best practices for responsible use of metrics?
- Does this still serve the purpose?
- Have additional options emerged?
- Is this working? How could it work better?

**That seems like a lot to
think about on a Friday
morning.**

I agree. Let's digest and talk more later.

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Find me in my office in Hatcher 260A, or email me at
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Additional resources



Research Guides:

- [Research Impact Assessment \(Health Sciences\)](#)
- [Research Impact Challenge Guide](#)

Programming:

- Workshops during Enriching Scholarship (May 4-7)
- Consultations and instruction upon request!



Thanks! And see you in the library.